

XLIII. On *Pleomorpha*, a Genus of minute Chrysomelidæ from Australia. By W. W. SAUNDERS, Esq., F.L.S., &c.

[Read 1st September, 1845.]

GENUS PLEOMORPHIA (πλεος, μορφη).

*Head* vertical, nearly circular, with the mandibles more or less projecting, immersed in the thorax nearly up to the eyes. *Eyes* oval, elongate, with a slight sinus on the interior margin. *Antennæ* short, not half the length of the body, placed wide apart close to the eyes, 11-jointed; 1st joint long, robust, pyriform; 2nd, short, turbinate, robust; 3rd—6th, slender, gradually increasing in length; 7th—10th, broad, triangular, forming with the broad terminal ovate joint a long serrated clava, terminal joint with a minute knob or accessory joint at the apex. *Thorax* transverse, rounded and gibbous in front, as broad as the elytra, with the centre of the hinder margin produced into a very obtuse angle posteriorly. *Scutellum* small, flat, oblong, ovate. *Body* cylindrical, short, abruptly truncate. *Elytra* rounded at the apex, forming with the thorax a very obtuse oval. *Legs* robust, the anterior pair elongate in the males? *Tarsi* 4-jointed, 1st, 2nd and 3rd joints broad, transverse; the latter deeply bifid, the terminal joint cylindrical, clavate.

This is a genus of small, robust, rounded *Chrysomelidæ*, with antennæ having a distinct and serrated club. The largest species which I have seen only reaches  $\frac{1.5}{100}$  inch in length. The general appearance of the species approaches near to the *Cryptocephali* of old authors; but looking to the distinctly serrated club of the antennæ, the more or less projecting mandibles, and the elongation of the fore legs, I think the true place for it is not far from *Clythra*.

Sp. 1. *Pleomorpha Davisii*, W. W. S. (Pl. XV. fig. 4.)

Head rufous, with the eyes and a transverse line across the forehead adjoining the thorax black. Antennæ rufous, with the joints forming the club black. Thorax rufous, smooth and shining. Scutellum black. Elytra smooth, shining, punctato-striate, testaceous, with the apex broadly tipped with black, a broad margin along the base of the same colour, the suture margined with black and the punctures near the basal margin black also. Underside

of abdomen black. Legs castaneous, with the tarsi dusky. Fore legs elongate.

Length  $\frac{1.0}{100}$  inch.

In the Collection of the British Museum and that of J. O. Westwood, Esq.

Taken in the vicinity of Adelaide, South Australia, by W. Davis, after whom I have named the species.

(Fig. 4 a, antenna ; 4 b, scutellum.)

Sp. 2. *Pleomorpha ruficollis*, W. W. S. (*Cryptocephalus æneipennis*? Dej.)

Head and eyes black, with a patch on the face, and the parts of the mouth rufous. Antennæ rufous, with the joints forming the club black. Thorax bright rufous, smooth and shining. Scutellum small, ovate, black. Elytra smooth, shining, punctato-striate, dark bronzy green. Underside of the abdomen black. Legs rufous, with the tarsi dusky.

Length  $\frac{8}{100}$  inch.

In the Collection of J. O. Westwood, Esq.

Taken by Mr. Lewis in Van Diemen's Land.

This species varies with the face sometimes entirely black or entirely rufous.

This may be the *Cryptocephalus æneipennis* of Dej. as described in the "Voyage de l'Astrolabe," but the short description there given leaves me much in doubt of the identity of the species with the one above described.

Sp. 3. *Pleomorpha rufipes*, W. W. S.

Head dark bronzy brown, with the parts of the mouth rufous. Antennæ rufous, with the club black. Thorax smooth, shining, dark bronzy brown. Scutellum and elytra of the same colour, smooth, shining, the latter faintly punctato-striate. Underside of the body black. Legs bright rufous, with the tarsi dusky.

Length  $\frac{8}{100}$  inch.

In the Collection of J. O. Westwood, Esq.

Taken in Van Diemen's Land by Mr. Lewis.

Sp. 4. *Pleomorpha concolor*, W. W. S.

Entirely of a dark blue green, excepting the underside of the first joint of the antennæ, which is rufous, and the eyes, which are bronzy brown. Head, with the mandibles considerably projecting, shining, minutely punctate. Thorax shining, smooth, minutely and

faintly punctured. Elytra shining, punctato-striate; the punctures of the striæ, adjoining the external margin, deeper than those on the disk. Underside of abdomen clothed with short whitish adpressed hairs.

Length  $\frac{1.2}{100}$  inch.

In the Collection of Capt. Parry.

From Australia.

Sp. 5. *Pleomorpha atra*, W. W. S.

Entirely black, excepting the underside of the two first joints of the antennæ, which is rufous, and the joints forming the club of the antennæ and tarsi, which are pitchy brown. Head, with the mandibles considerably projecting, minutely punctate. Thorax shining, smooth, minutely and faintly punctured. Elytra shining, punctato-striate.

Length  $\frac{1.5}{100}$  inch.

In the Collection of the Rev. F. W. Hope.

From Western Australia.

A nearly allied species to the foregoing, but differs in the size and colour.

P.S.--Some of the species of this genus are taken on the leaves of several species of Acacia, in South Australia.

---